

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 NEA-10

AF-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 FEA-02 INT-08 SPM-01 EPA-04 CEQ-02

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJECT: LIBERAL AND COUNTRY PARTIES ISSUE FOREIGN POLICY
AND DEFENSE PROGRAMS

1. SUMMARY: LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTIES HAVE BEEN ISSUING SERIES
OF 20 STATEMENTS ON PROGRAMS TO BE FOLLOWED IN VARIOUS FIELDS
IF THEY WIN ELECTIONS MAY 18. PROGRAMS TO BE PUBLISHED IN
PAMPHLET FORM, WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO DEPT BY POUCH WHEN
AVAILABLE. FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM ISSUED APR 23 FOLLOWS MAIN
LINES OF LIBERAL-COUNTRY POLICIES AND FOCUSES UPON "RESTORATION"
OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. DEFENSE PROGRAM IS RELATIVELY PEDES-

TRIAN DRAFT WHICH DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT VULNERABILITIES
IN LABOR DEFENSE PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE FORTHCOMING
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IN SUPPORT FOR U.S. AND JOINT DEFENSE FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA,

THOUGH THE LANGUAGE USED IS GENERAL AND OCCASIONALLY IMPRECISE.
END SUMMARY.

2. DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS LIBERAL AND COUNTRY PARTIES HAVE BEEN ISSUING SERIES OF PROGRAMS IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL FIELDS AIMED AT SEEKING OUT POLICIES OF LIBERAL-COUNTRY COALITION GOVERNMENT IF ELECTED MAY 18. TOTAL OF 20 PAPERS TO BE ISSUED ULTIMATELY IN PAMPHLET FORM, WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO DEPT BY POUCH. FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM ISSUED APR 23 AND DEFENSE PROGRAM ISSUED APR 24 OF INTEREST AS INDICATING CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT WITH LABOR GOVERNMENT BUT WITH SOME DIFFERENCES OF SIGNIFICANCE TO U.S.

3. FOREIGN POLICY - BROAD PURPOSE OF AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY STATED TO BE TO ENSURE AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST AND SECURITY. AUSTRALIA SHOULD HAVE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF DIPLOMATIC AND RELATED REPRESENTATION CONSISTENT WITH RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC RESOURCES. MAJOR FACTORS AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AT PRESENT INCLUDE CONTEST FOR INFLUENCE IN ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND CHINA AT TIME U.S. INCLINED TO WITHDRAW ITS PRESENCE AND JAPAN'S FUTURE ROLE UNCERTAIN. THERE IS CONTINUING CONFLICT IN INDO-CHINA AND INSTABILITY IN OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, IN ADDITION TO UNCERTAINTY AND INSTABILITY IN MIDDLE EAST. MEANWHILE, THERE IS PROSPECT OF NAVAL BUILDUP BY SOVIET UNION IN INDIAN OCEAN AND UNCERTAINTY IN RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ABOUT FUTURE OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. IN BACKGROUND ARE MKK PROBLEMS REGARDING MINERAL AND OTHER RESOURCES, ENERGY SUPPLIES, RAPID POPULATION GROWTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION.

4. IN SPECIFIC TERMS, LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTIES SUPPORT NEUTRALIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND INDIAN-OCEAN PEACE ZONE CONCEPT BUT CONSIDER THAT CONDITIONS FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE GOALS DO NOT PRESENTLY EXIST. VITAL AUSTRALIAN TRADE ROUTES CROSS INDIAN OCEAN, AND LIBERAL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY PARTIES ACCEPT NEED FOR BALANCE OF SUPER POWER NAVAL FORCES IN REGION. (LIBERAL-COUNTRY PROGRAM DRAWS HEAVILY ON UNCLASSIFIED INFO SUPPLIED BY EMBASSY ON SOVIET BUNKERING, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPAIR FACILITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN.)

5. ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., LIBERAL-COUNTRY PROGRAM PLACES U.S. FIRST AMONG AUSTRALIA'S SPECIAL RELATION-

SHIPS. IT STATES LIBERAL-COUNTRY GOVERNMENT QTE WILL SET OUT TO RESTORE THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES THAT EXISTED UNTIL THE END OF 1972. WE RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN MAINTAINING PEACE. IN PARTICULAR, LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTIES REGARD ANZUS PACT AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AS A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. OUR POLICY WILL NOT BE ONE OF SUBSERVIENCE BUT OF AN EQUAL PARTNER...A CONTINUING AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN IS IN THE INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF THE SECURITY OF AUSTRALIA BUT OF THE PEOPLES OF ASIA....END QTE.

6. LIBERAL-COUNTRY PROGRAM SUPPORTS CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN SEATO, OPPOSES RECOGNITION OF PRG IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, SUPPORTS CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO GVN, AND STATES WILL CONTINUE RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIET-NAM, THOUGH EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS ABOUT PRECIPITATE MANNER IN WHICH LABOR GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED RELATIONS IN 1973.

7. ON LAW OF SEA PROGRAM STATES IT IS IN AUSTRALIA'S INTEREST TO SUPPORT REVISION OF LOS TO ENSURE AUSTRALIA QTE MAINTAINS JURISDICTION OVER ITS MINERAL AND OTHER RESOURCES ADJACENT TO ITS COASTS AND WILL ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE INTENTION OF SECURING SOVEREIGNTY OF ITS LEGITIMATE INTERESTS. WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS AS A NATION DEPEND ON SEA COMMUNICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AND SECURITY. END QTE

8. DEFENSE POLICY - LIBERAL-COUNTRY DEFENSE PROGRAM GENERALLY FOLLOWS LONG-ESTABLISHED LINES OF POLICY ADOPTED BY COALITION WHILE IN GOVERNMENT. PROGRAM STATES AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE POLICY MUST AIM AT MAXIMUM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MILITARY CAPACITY CONSISTENT WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION. ACHIEVEMENT OF SOCIAL ADVANCE WITH IMPROVED STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF LIVING IS JEOPARDIZED IF NATIONAL SECURITY IS NOT ENSURED. PROGRAM MAKES NO COMMITMENT TO ANY PARTICULAR LEVEL OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURE.

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9. ON REGIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM STATES LIBERAL-COUNTRY GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED QTE TO JOIN WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IN MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ALLIES BY ASSISTING THEM WITH FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA. END QTE

10. ON DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH U.S., PROGRAM STATES IT IS IMPORTANT TO AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE INTERESTS QTE TO ENCOURAGE A CONTINUED UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN THE ASIAN, SOUTH EAST ASIAN, SOUTH WESTERN PACIFIC AREAS, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT IS IN AUSTRALIA,S INTERESTS TO OFFER THE UNITED STATES ACCESS TO BASES, INSTALLATIONS AND OTHER FACILITIES WHEN THESE WILL ASSIST IN OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE. WE WILL REQUIRE CONTROL TO BE ULTIMATELY WITHIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN
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AUTHORITIES, BUT WILL BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO UNITED STATES OPERATIONAL CONDUCT OF THE BASESSUBJECT TO AUSTRALIANS HAVING ADEQUATE ACCESS TO THE PRODUCT OF

THE BASES. WE WILL COOPERATE IN ENSURING THE NECESSARY
SECURITY IN THE OPERATION OF SUCH BASES IN THE SAME WAY
AS OUR OWN MILITARY OPERATIONS. END QTE. LANGUAGE
USED IS GENERAL AND IMPRECISE ON ISSUES OF CONTROL OF
FACILITIES, THOUGH PROBABLY NOT INTENTIONALLY SO.

11. PROGRAM ALSO STATES LIBERAL-COUNTRY DETERMINATION
TO ESTABLISH LONG-TERM DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS WITH PAPUA
NEW GUINEA QTE ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO BE NEGOTIATED.
END QTE.

12. COMMENT: FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM EXPRESSES BROAD
MEASURE OF CONSENSUS WITH EXISTING FOREIGN POLICIES OF
LABOR GOVERNMENT, POINT WHICH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS WILLESEE NOTED IN COMMENT APRIL 23. THERE ARE
POINTS OF DIFFERENCE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO U.S., IN
SENSE THAT LIBERAL-COUNTRY GOVERNMENT WOULD CONDUCT
AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN MANNER CALCULATED TO
MAINTAIN RATHER THAN TRANSFORM TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP.

13. DEFENSE POLICY PROGRAM IS MUCH MORE PEDESTRIAN
DRAFT WHICH DOES NOT MAKE MUCH OF AN EFFORT TO EXPLOIT
EXISTING VULNERABILITIES IN LABOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES.
PRINCIPAL INTEREST IN DEFENSE PROGRAM IS REASSURANCE ON
DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S. AND SUGGESTION THAT
FUTURE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE ENTERED INTO ON
MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TERMS.

14. BOTH PROGRAMS, LIKE MOST OF THE OTHER LIBERAL-
COUNTRY PROGRAMS, ARE TYPICAL COMMITTEE DRAFTS,
EXPRESSING LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR OF INDIVIDUALS
CONCERNED IN THEIR PREPARATION. PRINCIPAL SIGNIFI-
CANCE OF THE RANGES OF 20 DRAFTS IS THAT THEY CONSTITUTE
AN UP-DATED LOOK AT ALL OF THE MAJOR POLICY ISSUES,
SUGGESTING DIRECTION LIBERAL-COUNTRY GOVERNMENT WOULD
TAKE. PROGRAMS MAY HAVE NO GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN
CAMPAIGN, AND LIBERAL-COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS OF PAST
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HAVE HAD GENERALLY PRAGMATIC VIEW OF PARTY PROGRAMS,
WHEN CONFRONTED WITH POLICY CHOICES.
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